

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of generating a configuration comprising a plurality of components each having an associated context, said associated context equal to one or more of a plurality of values, said method comprising:

- ~~eaching storing~~ a current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a first component, wherein the first component is one of the plurality of components;
- changing the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the context associated with the first component if the current first context state and the context associated with the first component are not equal;
- installing the first component as part of the configuration;
- upon installing the first component as part of the configuration, changing a first state of the configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component;
- and
- restoring the ~~eached stored~~ first context state upon completing installation of the first component without changing the second configuration state.

2. (Currently amended) A ~~server computer system~~ adapted to generate a configuration, the ~~server computer system~~ comprising:

- a processor; and
- a ~~cache~~ memory coupled to the processor and configured to ~~hold store~~ a current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a first component, wherein the first component is one of a plurality of components each having an associated context, said associated context state equal to one or more of a plurality of values, wherein the memory further includes code executable by the processor
- to:[:]
- ~~a change module adapted to~~ change the current first context state to a context state corresponding to the context associated with the first component if the current

12 first context state and the context associated with the first component are not
13 equal;
14 ~~an install module adapted to~~ install the first component as part of the configuration;
15 ~~a module to~~ change a first state of the configuration to a second configuration state that
16 includes the first component upon installation of the first component as part of the
17 configuration; and
18 ~~a restore module adapted to~~ restore the each stored first context state upon a
19 completion of an installation of the first component without changing the second
20 configuration state.

1 3. (Canceled).

1 4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration comprises
2 the configuration of a product that is a member of the group consisting of: automobiles,
3 computer hardware, computer software, professional service products, financial service products,
4 medical products, pharmaceutical products, and construction products.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the context associated
2 with the first component represents a limited set of additional components that are compatible as
3 additions to a particular configuration with the first component.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the context associated
2 with the first component represents a class of components that are compatible as additions to a
3 particular configuration with the first component.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein each component is
2 associated with a context attribute that allows identification of the context of each component,
3 the method further comprising:
4 processing the context attribute associated with the installed first component to determine
5 the context associated with the installed first component.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each associated context is
2 a member of the group consisting of: a product line comprising compatible components, a
3 current inventory, and a country of purchase.

1 9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 as a result of installing the first component as part of the configuration, installing one or
3 more additional components, wherein each additional installed component has an
4 associated context; and
5 ~~eaching storing~~ nested context states associated with each context of each additional
6 installed component; and
7 restoring a ~~eached stored~~ state of the context upon completing installation of the
8 component further comprises restoring the ~~eached stored state to~~ an immediately
9 preceding ~~eached stored~~ nested context state ~~of the context~~ upon completing
10 installation of each additional component by restoring the nested context states in
11 reverse.

1 10. (Canceled).

1 11. (Currently amended) The ~~server computer system~~ of claim 2 wherein the
2 configuration comprises the configuration of a product that is a member of the group consisting
3 of: automobiles, computer hardware, computer software, professional service products, financial
4 service products, medical products, pharmaceutical products, and construction products.

1 12. (Currently amended) The ~~server computer system~~ of claim 2 wherein the context
2 associated with the first component represents a limited set of additional components that are
3 compatible as additions to a particular configuration with the first component.

1 13. (Currently amended) The ~~server computer system~~ of claim 2 wherein the context
2 associated with the first component represents a class of components that are compatible as
3 additions to a particular configuration with the first component.

1 14. (Currently amended) The ~~server~~ computer system of claim 13 wherein each
2 component is associated with a context attribute that allows identification of the context of each
3 component and the ~~change module is further adapted~~ memory further includes code executable
4 by the processor to process the context attribute associated with the installed first component to
5 determine the context associated with the installed first component.

1 15. (Currently amended) The ~~server~~ computer system of claim 2 wherein each
2 associated context is a member of the group consisting of: a product line comprising compatible
3 components, a current inventory, and a country of purchase.

1 16. (Currently amended) The ~~server~~ computer system of claim 2 wherein:
2 the ~~each~~ memory is also configured to ~~hold~~ store nested context states in response to a
3 requirement for the installation of additional components due to the previous
4 installation of other components and each additional installed component has an
5 associated context; and
6 the ~~restore module is further adapted~~ memory further includes code executable by the
7 processor to restore the ~~each~~ stored state of the context upon completing
8 installation of each additional component by restoring the nested context states in
9 reverse.

1 17. (Cancelled.)

1 18. (Cancelled.)

1 19. (Cancelled.)

1 20. (Cancelled.)

1 21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein if the first context state
2 and the context associated with the first component are equal, the method further comprises:
3 retaining the first context state as the current context state;

installing the first component as part of the configuration while retaining the first context state as the current context state; and
upon installing the first component as part of the configuration, changing a first state of the configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component while retaining the first context state as the current context state.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
~~eaching~~ storing the current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a second component, wherein the second component is one of the plurality of components;
changing the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the context associated with the second component if the current first context state and the context associated with the second component are not equal;
installing the second component as part of the configuration;
upon installing the second component as part of the configuration, changing the second configuration state to a third configuration state that includes the second component; and
restoring the ~~eached stored~~ first context state upon completing installation of the second component without changing the third configuration state.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein changing a state of the configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component further comprises:
including one or more first additional components in the second configuration state if installing the first component as part of the configuration requires including the one or more first additional components; and
removing one or more second additional components in the second configuration state if installing the first component of the configuration requires removing the one or more second additional components.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~server~~ computer system of claim 2 wherein if the first context state and the context associated with the first component are equal, the ~~server is~~

~~configured with at least one additional module~~ memory further includes code executable by the processor to:

retain the first context state as the current context state;
install the first component as part of the configuration while retaining the first context state as the current context state; and
upon installation of the first component as part of the configuration, change a state of the configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component while retaining the first context state as the current context state.

25. (Currently amended) The ~~server computer system~~ of claim 2 wherein the ~~server is configured with at least one additional module~~ memory further includes code executable by the processor to:

~~each~~ store the current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a second component, wherein the second component is one of the plurality of components;
change the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the context associated with the second component if the current first context state and the context associated with the second component are not equal;
install the second component as part of the configuration;
upon installation of the second component as part of the configuration, change the second state to a third configuration state that includes the second component; and
restore the ~~each~~ stored first context state upon completing installation of the second component without changing the third configuration state.

26. (Currently amended) The ~~server computer system~~ of claim 2 wherein:
the second configuration state also includes one or more first additional components in the first configuration state if installation of the first component as part of the configuration requires including the one or more first additional components; and
the second configuration state excludes one or more second additional components in the first configuration state if installation of the first component of the configuration requires removing the one or more second additional components.

1 27. (Currently amended) An apparatus for generating a configuration comprising a
2 plurality of components each having an associated context, said associated context equal to one
3 or more of a plurality of values, said method comprising:
4 means for ~~eaching~~ storing a current first context state in response to a requirement for the
5 installation of a first component, wherein the first component is one of the
6 plurality of components;
7 means for changing the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the
8 context associated with the first component if the current first context state and
9 the context associated with the first component are not equal;
10 means for installing the first component as part of the configuration;
11 means for changing a first state of the configuration to a second configuration state that
12 includes the first component upon installing the first component as part of the
13 configuration; and
14 means for restoring the ~~eached~~ stored first context state upon completing installation of
15 the first component without changing the second configuration state.

1 28. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of components of the
2 configuration are selected from a group of components, the method further comprising:
3 upon installing the first component as part of the configuration, determining whether to
4 install one or more additional components based upon installation of the first
5 component; and
6 if one or more additional components are to be installed based upon installation of the
7 first component, selecting the one or more additional components to be installed,
8 wherein the context associated with the first component limits available choices
9 from which the one or more additional components can be selected to a subset of
10 the group of components.

1 29. (New) The computer system of claim 2 wherein the plurality of components of
2 the configuration are selected from a group of components and the memory further includes code
3 executable by the processor to:

4 determine, upon installation of the first component as part of the configuration, whether
5 to install one or more additional components based upon installation of the first
6 component; and

7 select the one or more additional components to be installed if one or more additional
8 components are to be installed based upon installation of the first component,
9 wherein the context associated with the first component limits available choices
10 from which the one or more additional components can be selected to a subset of
11 the plurality of components.

1 30. (New) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the plurality of components of the
2 configuration are selected from a group of components, the apparatus further comprising:

3 means for determining, upon installation of the first component as part of the
4 configuration, whether to install one or more additional components based upon
5 installation of the first component; and

6 means for selecting the one or more additional components to be installed if one or more
7 additional components are to be installed based upon installation of the first
8 component, wherein the context associated with the first component limits
9 available choices from which the one or more additional components can be
10 selected to a subset of the plurality of components.

1 31. (New) A computer program product having code executable by a processor
2 stored thereon to generate a configuration comprising a plurality of components each having an
3 associated context, said associated context equal to one or more of a plurality of values, wherein
4 the code is further configured to:

5 store a current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a first
6 component, wherein the first component is one of the plurality of components;

7 change the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the context
8 associated with the first component if the current first context state and the
9 context associated with the first component are not equal;
10 install the first component as part of the configuration;
11 upon installing the first component as part of the configuration, change a first state of the
12 configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component;
13 and
14 restore the stored first context state upon completing installation of the first component
15 without changing the second configuration state.

1 32. (New) The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the code is further
2 configured to:
3 determine, upon installation of the first component as part of the configuration, whether
4 to install one or more additional components based upon installation of the first
5 component; and
6 select the one or more additional components to be installed if one or more additional
7 components are to be installed based upon installation of the first component,
8 wherein the context associated with the first component limits available choices
9 from which the one or more additional components can be selected to a subset of
10 the plurality of components.